

193A—15.7(272C,542) Confidentiality of complaint and investigative information.

15.7(1) *General provisions.* All complaint and investigative information received or created by the board is privileged and confidential pursuant to Iowa Code section 272C.6(4). Such information shall not be released to any person except as provided in that section.

15.7(2) *Confidentiality of PCAOB information and records.*

a. The Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (PCAOB) was created by the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (the Act) as a nonprofit corporation under the laws of the District of Columbia. The duties of the PCAOB include the registration of public accounting firms that prepare audit reports for public companies; the promulgation of rules (as approved by the SEC) for auditing, quality control, ethics, independence and other standards relating to the preparation of audit reports; the inspection of registered public accounting firms; the investigation of alleged standards violations; and the imposition of appropriate sanctions following disciplinary proceedings.

b. Pursuant to Section 105(b)(5)(A) of the Act and PCAOB rules, PCAOB investigatory information and records are confidential and privileged, and exempt from disclosure under the federal Freedom of Information Act. PCAOB, in its discretion, may share such information and records, along with the nonpublic sections of inspection reports, with state regulatory authorities as necessary to accomplish the purposes of the Act or to protect investors. As provided in Section 105(b)(5)(B) of the Act, state regulatory authorities are required to maintain such information and records as confidential and privileged.

c. The board shall maintain as confidential PCAOB investigative information and records, and the nonpublic sections of inspection reports, to the extent required by federal law. In the event a licensee is charged by the board in a state disciplinary proceeding based in whole or part upon confidential information or records received from the PCAOB, the board shall take such steps as are required by federal law to preserve the confidentiality of the information and records from the general public.